



December 7, 1998

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Dear Ted,

This follows on my letter of December 5. I have been quite perturbed by this problem with Greenberg. As if Saturday was not enough, I found myself talking to Mello last night (who wants nothing further to do with Greenberg) about the two letters of apology, which Greenberg sent to us by facsimile.

In my last letter I wrote, "Greenberg [does not see] the "A to Z" of the situation... I believe this is due to inexperience, and not because of any willful wrongdoing in the interest of self-advancement. Greenberg is not particularly "smooth" or "fast," but Mello knows that I agree with him regarding Greenberg's "hunger." And later, I wrote that, "his honesty is still to be determined." This has now been determined: Greenberg lied, at the very best by omission, in his last two letters to you.

I called him, somewhat nonplussed, to point out the inconsistency between oral reports of fact made to me and the letters. The crux of the matter is that Greenberg did have an agent at International Creative Management, or at least that was my understanding. Some days after the meeting, Greenberg received a call informing him that ICM would not be representing him as a writer. There was a conflict of interest between Greenberg and William Finnegan, who is also represented by ICM. Also: Greenberg failed to mention a "pitch" he sent to Lewis Lapham at *Harpers Magazine* dated August 18, which I pointed out to him last night.

As I told Greenberg, it is difficult to understand why he lied about this small point. Perhaps there is a less-than-malicious reason for it, such as vanity, but there is no way to sort the wheat from the chaff. I requested that he get back to you himself about this matter. An additional piece of information, which I am sure you will already have from the source, is that, as of last night, Mello was against using Greenberg's foreword. I have not decided what I think yet, but it will play no role in the matter if Mello decides not to use it.

I hope that this unnecessary string of events will soon be downwind, and that you are well.

My best,

*Blau.*